

## Basic Program Overview

The Sookmyung TESOL MA Program is a night school program designed around working teachers. Classes are offered in the evenings during the week from 6:20 to 9:00. There are no weekend classes.

We accept new students for both the fall and spring semesters. Our semesters are 16 weeks long and follow the regular Korean university schedule. Classes for the spring semester begin on March 1 and in the fall semester on September 1. Application periods fall four months before semester begin (end of November for the spring and end of May for fall). Those interested in applying need to be sure they contact us early.

The program takes five semesters to complete. Students need to take a total of 30 credits. Twenty-four of these are in elective courses and a further six in a final semester thesis or practicum. This basically means that MA students take two courses per semester.

The Sookmyung TESOL MA distinguishes itself through its student-centered approach. Students are responsible for choosing what they will do in the program. In the MA elective period, students choose two courses among a wide set of offerings per semester. This variety of choice enables MA students to take the courses that they feel benefit them the most.

In the Sookmyung TESOL MA there are no prerequisites among elective courses. Students are free to take any elective course on offer. Students take courses together regardless of experience in the MA or what other courses they may have taken. We believe that this kind of setting provides many opportunities for students of diverse backgrounds, interests and degrees of experience in the MA to learn from each other. Students are also often able to choose the types of projects they will pursue and write up in the elective courses they take. This enables students to develop either a more theoretically-based project or one which is centered on more practical applications of concepts.

As a Content-based program with a dual focus on the development of content knowledge as well as academic skills, TESOL MA students are expected to develop and further enhance academic skills and particularly in English. We provide students opportunities to use English in new ways that challenges them and also results in improvement. Students definitely leave the program different from when they entered.